



Illinois Inroads to Inclusion

By Lois Barnhart, Illinois Inclusion Officer

November 2011

Illinois Inclusion Efforts

National Service Inclusion Project (NSIP) staff conducted Inclusion Team Training on September 27, in Peoria hosted by Children's Home. This full day of training culminated in the establishment of three subcommittees: Evaluation Committee;; Outreach/ Recruitment/Marketing Committee and Capacity building—Education and Training Committee. Each sub-committee met and developed a strategic plan for the next year. A teleconference was held October 24 in follow up to the training. New members: Patti Gregory-Chang, ED Illinois Chapter National Federation of the Blind; Tanya Whitehead, Senior Research Specialist, University of Illinois, Dept. of Disability and Human Development and Robin Jones, ED Great Lakes ADA were introduced to the team. We thank SIU Telehealth for their support in our Inclusion Efforts.

One of the pieces of the strategic plan is to survey AmeriCorps programs as to their current practices regarding training of new members and host sites in regard to inclusion. Information received will be utilized to help structure the final draft of the Inclusion Toolkit to be released in 2012.

Inclusion training will begin to embrace Senior Corps programs in Illinois in the year ahead.

On-going training will be provided for AmeriCorps program directors at least twice per year. Planning has begun for the Spring 2012 training. Having three AmeriCorps program directors and two AmeriCorps members on the Inclusion Team will provide insight into hosting successful trainings.

Since the September training three programs have requested further information and discussion regarding Inclusion and Accommodations.

NSIP in conjunction with Next Step (CNCS grantee focusing on life after AmeriCorps for people with disabilities), is hosting a Leadership Institute and Symposium in Arlington, VA in December. Five members of the Illinois Inclusion Team will be attending the Leadership Institute on December 7. This Training is being held for those states that have current Inclusion Teams to seek best practice across the country. We hope to come back to Illinois with fresh perspectives and energy to apply to making a difference.

Illinois Disability Outreach

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LINKS OF INTEREST:

Inclusion:

NSIP (National Service Inclusion Project)
www.serviceandinclusion.org

Volunteerism:

Opportunities in Illinois
www.serve.illinois.gov
AmeriCorps
www.americorps.org

